



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdca.wa.gov

March 3, 2025

Delivered electronically to ckaminskas@libertylakewa.gov

Subject: Complaint filed by Gayle TenBrink, PDC Case 161020

Dear City of Liberty Lake Officials:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Gayle TenBrink concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Gayle TenBrink, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with [RCW 42.17A.755\(1\)](#) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

However, pursuant to [WAC 390-37-060\(1\)\(d\)](#), this serves as a formal written warning concerning the extent to which members of the Liberty Lake City Council engaged in advocacy regarding the ballot initiatives at the September 17, 2024, meeting without proper notice to enable public participation, and concerning the lack of proper notice for the October 1, 2024, meeting. Staff expects you to include all required elements when publicly noticing meetings in which councilmembers express a collective decision or vote upon a motion in support of or opposition to a ballot proposition. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Casey Gayman at 1-360-753-1111, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,
Electronically signed by Casey Gayman
Casey Gayman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,
Electronically signed by Kim Bradford
Kim Bradford
Deputy Director
For Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director



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March 3, 2025

Delivered electronically to gayletenbrink@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint regarding City of Liberty Lake Officials, PDC Case 161020

Dear Gayle TenBrink:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on October 17, 2024. The complaint alleged that City of Liberty Lake Officials may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by misusing public facilities or resources to support or oppose a candidate or ballot measure.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations and evidence you submitted; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response(s) provided by City of Liberty Lake officials, including Mayor Cris Kaminskis and City Clerk Kelsey Hardy; City of Liberty Lake meeting materials and video recordings; and other relevant information, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- [RCW 42.17A.555](#) prohibits public officials and agencies from using or authorizing the use of any of the facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition.
- The PDC has developed [Guidelines for Local Government Agencies in Election Campaigns](#) to assist public agencies in determining whether an activity is permitted under RCW 42.17A.555, and these guidelines state that members of a local elected legislative body may express a collective decision, or vote upon a motion in support or opposition to a ballot proposition, at an open public meeting, so long as the meeting notice included the title and number of the ballot proposition to be discussed, and members of the commission or members of the public are afforded approximately equal opportunity to express an opposing view.
- The September 17, 2024, Liberty Lake City Council meeting included a workshop discussion, during which Councilmember Chris Cargill gave a presentation describing the upcoming statewide ballot propositions. The meeting agenda characterized the discussion as "Position on Initiatives," without any additional details regarding the initiatives to be discussed. Councilmember Cargill's presentation advocated for the city to take a position supporting

Initiatives 2117 and 2066 and included numerous statistics to make the case for Council support, such as the number of Liberty Lake residents who signed the initiatives, changes in gas prices since the Climate Commitment Act took effect, and expected costs of converting homes from natural gas to electric.

- Following Council discussion, during which several councilmembers expressed views regarding the initiatives and the process for taking a position on ballot measures, the Council approved a motion to bring back a resolution in support of Initiatives 2117 and 2066 at the next meeting.
- The October 1, 2024, Liberty Lake City Council meeting agenda included notice of the Council's intent to consider Resolution No. 24-266, "A Resolution of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington in Support of Washington Initiative 2117" and Resolution No. 24-267, "A Resolution of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington in Support of Washington Initiative 2066." However, the agenda did not include the titles of the ballot propositions.
- Following public comments regarding the initiatives and Council discussion, the Council voted to approve Resolution No. 24-266 in support of Initiative 2117. The Council did not discuss or take action related to Resolution No. 24-267 in support of Initiative 2066.
- It appears that there was no deliberate attempt to circumvent public knowledge or participation regarding the proposed resolutions and that councilmembers believed, based in part on guidance expressed by Liberty Lake's city attorney during both meetings, that the Council's actions complied with RCW 42.17A.555.
- Liberty Lake City Council members have not received warnings or reminders of similar PDC requirements in the past five years.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, the failure to properly notice the September 17 and October 1 meetings does not amount to a violation that warrants further investigation.

Pursuant to [WAC 390-37-060\(1\)\(d\)](#), however, the City of Liberty Lake will receive a formal written warning concerning the extent to which members of the City Council engaged in advocacy regarding ballot initiatives at the September 17, 2024, meeting without proper notice to enable public participation, and concerning the lack of proper notice for the October 1, 2024, meeting. The formal written warning will include staff's expectation that the City of Liberty Lake include all required elements when publicly noticing meetings in which councilmembers express a collective decision or vote upon a motion in support of or opposition to a ballot proposition. The Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with [RCW 42.17A.755\(1\)](#).

If you have questions, you may contact Casey Gayman at 1-360-753-1111, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,
Electronically signed by Casey Gayman
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Compliance Officer

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